

FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD • SPRING 1996

Locust Elementary School

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A Message from the Principal

The School Accountability Report Card is issued annually by local school boards for each elementary and secondary school in the state. The Report Card provides parents and other interested people a variety of information about the school, its resources, its successes, and the areas in which improvements are needed.

The information found in the Report Card for Locust Elementary School will show a picture of a school with a record of improvement, and a faculty that is professionally skilled, caring, and personally committed to meeting the learning needs of students. The educational and auxiliary services available to the student population help each young person to be successful.

Bill Olinger, Principal
Locust Elementary School

School Description

Locust Elementary School is one of twenty-two elementary schools in the Fontana Unified School District. The population of the school is expanding rapidly and is becoming more diverse ethnically and linguistically. The 613 student population is a rich mixture of Anglo (28%), Latino (55%), Black (12%), Asian (4%), and Other including Pacific Islander, and Filipino (2%) students. The proportion of children who speak English as a second language (30%) is increasing, with 154 students who require primary language support to be successful.

Locust Elementary School enjoys the active support of its parents and other community members. The PTA raises funds annually to provide programs and disaster preparedness materials for all classes.

The Mission of the school as adopted by the entire staff (teachers, administrators, classified, Site Council, etc.) is:

... to provide a setting in which all students can achieve their best, enjoy their school experience and prepare for life ...

In its efforts to achieve this Mission the school works closely with several community groups including, the Fontana Teachers' Association, the City of Fontana Parks and Recreation and Performing Arts Center, the YMCA, The Boy and Girl Scouts of America, the Fontana and Rialto City Police Departments, and various local businesses.

Size of School

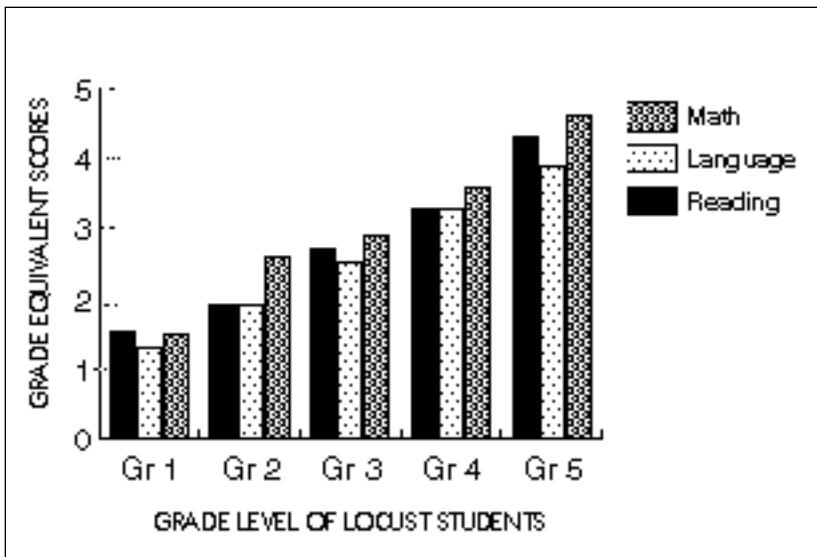
At a total enrollment of 613 students, Locust Elementary School is larger than many of the elementary schools in the State of California.

Our school operates on a single-track continuous school calendar. We have a total of 20 k-5 classes, 3 special education classes, and 2 Pre-school classes.

INDICATORS OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOOL

Student Achievement

This graph represents results from Reading, Language and Math sections of the ITBS Achievement Test for Locust Elementary School. Our students took this test in the Spring of 1996. The ITBS is a standardized, multiple choice test, and the results compare our students according to a national "norm" group. Students from various parts of the United States took this test to establish the "norm" or expected scores for students at each grade level. The bars on the graph indicate the average "Grade Equivalent" scores for each grade level at Locust.



Teachers have noted that the children appear to be excited about coming to school and are on task in the classrooms. Curriculum changes in all grade levels had led to an overall upward surge in the children's enthusiasm and creativity. Samples of children's work are on display throughout the school.

Attendance Rate

Attendance is a strong point at Locust School. Our site consistently has around 95% actual attendance throughout the year. Even so, we are constantly striving to develop more effective ways of reducing absenteeism and tardies in order to help stem the dropout rate in later school years.

Expenditures & Services Offered

Although funding in many budget categories for Locust Elementary School is established in the District budget adopted by the Board of Education, valuable information is available at the school site. The following are significant:

- For 1995-96 the school received \$16,883 for instructional purposes.
- In addition to state and local revenues received for general education, the school received the following categorical funds from special state and federal programs: \$59,841 School Based Coordinated Program, \$1,385 Bilingual (EIA/LEP), and \$2,778 Title VI.

INDICATORS OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOOL (Continued)

Class Sizes and Teaching Loads

As a result of an agreement negotiated with the Fontana Teachers' Association the district staff was at an average of 31 students per class, K-5. Due to individual grade loads, however, some classes were higher or lower than the average.

Current Distribution of Children for Each Teacher

	Pre-School	Kinder garten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Class 1	24	29	28	32	32	30	31
Class 2	24	25	29	32	32	31	30
Class 3		26	28	14*	11*	31	30
Class 4		16*	15*	20*	11*	13*	15*
Class 5				32			
Sp.Ed.				1	6	9	15

* Indicates combination class

Because of student mobility, these numbers can vary on almost a daily basis. Feel free to contact our school office to get current class size numbers.

Teacher Assignment

Every teacher in Locust Elementary School is properly certified to teach at the appropriate grade level.

Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Consistent with school district policy, all textbooks are within the state's seven year adoption cycle.

Textbooks and materials for students with limited English proficiency are provided as needed. Many other manipulatives, literature books, and audio-visual materials are available for teacher and student use.

Counseling and Support Services

The school enjoys the services of a full-time library clerk. When needed, students also receive the services of a community aide, a health clerk, a Resource Specialist, a speech therapist, an adaptive P.E. teacher, a school nurse, a DIS tutor, and a psychologist. The students can receive further assistance from a computer aide and two bilingual aides.

Substitute Teachers

The approval of all CSP (Continuous School Program) teachers to substitute at other schools when off-track has reduced the shortage and increased the quality of substitute teachers in Fontana. Standard "Career Substitutes" are also used when available.

School Facilities and Safety

Locust Elementary is a relatively new school, having opened in September 1987. Although it has the appearance of a permanent facility, all classrooms on the site are considered portable trailer classrooms.

According to the Standard School Crime Report for the first semester of 1994/95, there were few safety related incidents at Locust Elementary School. This normally includes such incidents as fights which are grounds for suspension, several types of vandalism and property crimes.

Classroom Discipline & Climate for Learning

There is general agreement among all school staff on the instructional goals of the school, the policy for maintaining order and the need for everyone to cooperate. The school and District administration have been especially supportive of the on-going process of improving our instructional and discipline programs. Each parent is provided with a copy of our school's discipline plan at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment. The plan includes state, district and school guidelines.

Quality of Instruction & Leadership

There is a variety of programs on the campus to meet the diversity of student needs. These programs include: Bilingual services, computer lab, Gifted and Talented Program, Resource Specialist, Language, Speech and Hearing, Adaptive Physical Education, Psychological services, Special Day Class and team teaching.

Teacher Evaluation & Professional Improvement

In accordance with the negotiated contract all permanent teachers in the Fontana Unified School District are evaluated on a two-year cycle. All non-tenured teachers have formal observations three times per year and are evaluated twice yearly.

Training & Curriculum Improvement

Locust Elementary School has a plan for training and curriculum development which was developed jointly by the teachers and the administration. Features of the plan include: opportunities for teachers to observe and coach each other, travel to select conferences, the use of consultants from the department of instruction at the local universities, the district's staff development services and other outside sources. An especially important component of our program has been the opportunity to have days of student non-attendance for staff development purposes.

Salary Reporting 1995-96

The law requires we report our salary structure compared to similar district statewide averages. The most current data provided by the California Department of Education is for the 1995-96 school year.

The lowest beginning teachers' annual salary is \$28,280 for 182 days of service or \$155.38 per day. The statewide average for beginning teachers in districts similar to ours is \$26,980 annually.

The average mid-range salary is \$42,600 for 182 days of service or \$228.57 per day in our district. The statewide mid-range salary is \$42,403 in districts similar to ours.

The highest salary for a teacher in our district is \$53,182 or \$292.21 per day in our district. The statewide average for the highest paid teachers in districts similar to ours is \$49,859.

All teachers salaries represent 42.7% of the total budget.

Principals' salaries vary according to time in the position and work year; however, when salaries are averaged for all such principals, their annual averaged salary is \$62,399 or 299.77 per day of service. The statewide average for principals is \$67,192.

Our district superintendents' salaries vary based on responsibility; however, when salaries were averaged their annual average salary (1994-95) was \$90,124 which equal 0.3% of the total budget.

Superintendents are paid to work 220 days excluding weekends, holidays, and vacation at an average daily rate of \$409.65. They are responsible for the services performed by 2,414 certificated and classified employees and for about 31,000 students. Data is not available for districts with similar numbers of students; however, the 1994-95 state average for superintendents in similar districts was \$114,830.

All certificated and classified administrative salaries and board stipends in our district represent 4.53% of the total budget.